

# RELIGIOUS INFORMER.

[Vol. I.] SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1819. [No. 12.]

*Extract of a Letter from a young lady in New-York, to her brother in New-Hampshire, dated April 13, 1819.*

I can truly say, that if I have ever known what true happiness is, it is at present. Among all the pursuits of my vain imagination, it has been sought unfound. And never until I gave up all the hopes of obtaining it in the vanities and follies of the world, did I know any thing of true enjoyment. But there is that which will make us happy; there is a certain something, that will give tranquillity of mind, and that peace of which the world knows nothing. To this, a few weeks since, I was a perfect stranger. Happy, thrice happy is that soul that is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Can this Lamb be my friend? What! a friend to such a sinner? O amazing love and grace unknown. Yes; he is a faithful friend to all who put their trust in him.

*“Jesus is all I wish or want;  
For him I pray, I thirst, I pant;  
Let others after earth aspire;  
Christ is the treasure I desire;*

Treasure of treasures, O what riches can be compared to the enjoyment of a christian! what love, to the love of Christ.

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*Copy of a letter from a Correspondent to the Editor.*

ELDER EBENEZER CHASE—SIR,

A few days since, a friend put into my hands five numbers of a paper entitled the “RELIGIOUS INFORMER,” with a desire that I should read them, which I accordingly did—and I was agreeably entertained, and wonderfully edified thereby—greatly beyond my expectation. It contains information which is highly gratifying to every true follower of Christ. The recent revivals of religion, which you have published; and the probable rebuilding of the kingdom of the Redeemer, on earth, inspires the christian’s soul with a heavenly ardour.

Permit me to give you a hasty sketch of the state of religion in this part of the country.

In several towns in the southerly part of the county of

Strafford, there has lately been, (and it still continues) an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the people.—The “wilderness blossoms as the rose;” many have already been permitted to sit down at the table of the Lord, to commemorate his dying love and living care.—And many others are anxiously inquiring what they “shall do to be saved.” But there is not at present enough Labourers in the vineyard of the Lord—we hope they may be speedily be supplied with true and faithful ministers of the new testament, who shall study to show themselves approved of God—who shall preach Christ and him crucified to all unto whom they shall come.

It is truly gratifying to a follower of the Lamb, to attend the meetings of these new-born saints—to see them arise in publick, and tell what the Lord has done for their souls. It makes even the stout-hearted, and those that are far from righteousness to consider of their past conduct, and many appear to be preparing their minds, in such a manner, as that salvation may shortly come unto them: they have openly declared, that they will seek the Lord.—May this cloud of mercy, which has lately hovered over this section of God’s heritage, never withdraw its influences, or cease to overshadow it, till many more souls shall be converted to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

So prays your friend

W.—

*The writer of the foregoing will do me a favor, if he would inform me of his name and place of residence, as I wish to write to him.*

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*From the Guardian.*

### THE DANGER OF PROCRASTINATION.

In the sacred word of God, we read that when the great Apostle of the Gentiles stood before Felix, the governor, and “reasoned of righteousness, temperance, & judgment to come, Felix trembled.” His guilty conscience was alarmed when Paul set forth the necessity of justice and equity towards our fellow creatures; of being chaste and temperate; and especially when he represented in the most glowing colours, and the most eloquent strains, the tremendous judgment to come; when the secrets of all hearts would be explored, and the cruel ignominious actions of Felix himself would be exposed to the view of assembled angels and men. The impression however



is of but short duration. He endeavours to calm his troubled mind by saying unto Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season I will call for thee." We do not read that ever this *convenient season* came. Perhaps he was never afterwards inclined to listen to the serious discourses of his prisoner; but having his mind totally engaged in the affairs of this life, he altogether forgot the one thing needful.

Ah! my dear young friend, is not Felix's case *your* case? Have *you* not felt some serious impressions whilst sitting under the preaching of a faithful minister of the gospel of Christ? Have *you* not experienced the stings of a wounded conscience? How then could you reject its faithful admonitions, and bury yourself up with the hope that you should one day have leisure and inclination to attend to them? The folly of such conduct will be evident if you consider,

1st. The great importance attached to eternal things. Religion is not a speculative concern. The truths which the Bible declares are conveyed in terms the most decisive, and carry with them evident marks of their being genuine. You may err in the common transactions of life, and may possibly be able to rectify your mistake. But if you err here, you are undone forever. No human, nor even angelic contrivance will be able to deliver you from the pit of destruction into which your own folly will have brought you. Why then should you delay for a moment a thing which is of the utmost importance? You would be astonished at the indifference and neglect of a criminal, who, on being assured of receiving a pardon at his own request, should refuse to make this request till within a few moments of the time allotted for his execution. Yet your imprudence is greater, in proportion as the terrors of eternal death exceed those of temporal.

2dly. The uncertainty of life is another grand argument against procrastination. The present we may call our own but the future we cannot. We are exposed to a thousand unforeseen events, which may deprive us of our existence, and hurry us into awful eternity. We dare not calculate on the morrow, for

*"In human hearts what bolder thoughts can rise,  
Than man's presumption on to-morrow's dawn?  
Where is to-morrow! In another world.  
For numbers this is certain; the reverse  
Is sure to none."*

Yet, strange to say, many young people comfort themselves with such reflections as these:—"I am now in the vigour of youth, and in the full enjoyment of health: no foul disease threatens to cut short the thread of my existence. For aught I know I may live to old age, and then it will be time enough to make my peace with God." Deluded mortals! *For ought you know* you may be summoned to appear before the tribunal of an angry Judge 'ere the sun has darted its cheering rays through the window of your chamber! and the place that knows you no more. Remember that in the midst of life you are in death.

3dly. If you stifle *present* convictions, you have just reason to fear that the Lord will give you to the hardness and impenitency of heart. Nothing will then remain "but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation." Heb. x. 27. Oh! beware that you weary not the patience of a merciful but just God, and cause him to swear in his wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest." Heb. iii. 11. Jesus now invites you to come unto him. Say not, "I will accept the invitation to-morrow," you may then be in eternity. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." 2d Cor. vi. 2. Consider likewise that evil habits will obtain a faster hold on you in proportion as they are encouraged the longer. Conscience will become less and less tender, until at last it may be seared with a hot iron, 1 Tim. iv. 2.

"Tis easier work if we begin  
To fear the Lord betimes;  
While sinners that grow old in sin  
Are harden'd in their crimes."—WATTS.

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*Continued from page 102.*

But Oh the day, the awful and dreadful, glorious and lovely day, when the King of kings and the Lord of lords, shall appear in his beauty! Whose heart can conceive, tongue declare, or pen describe, the glories and terrors of that day, when the Almighty Saviour shall descend triumphant, and all the celestial warriors, that have followed his direction and example, shall compose his majestic train? Assist me, O God, to declare the grandeur, the magnificence of that procession; such as not all the kings of the earth joined together could form, nor all the mighty ones of the globe compose. The Lord of life and



glory will appear, high seated on the cloud of brightness; riding on a white horse, decked with majesty and excellency, and arrayed with glory and beauty; and the heavenly armies shall follow him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean; which fine linen is the righteousness of saints.—Oh, shall I be there? shall I see the King in his beauty? shall I be one that shall follow in his train? I weep to think I may be shut out; I burst into tears at the thought that I may be missing, and be weeping in darkness and pain, while all heaven will be rejoicing upon the occasion. Where, my friends, will you be then? Do you think, that dying in your present situation, you will come with Christ? Awake, awake to righteousness, and sin not: be like your Saviour now in temper and life, then, when he shall appear, you shall be like him in beauty; for you shall see him as he is. You shall not only behold him in his beauty, but your present vile bodies shall be changed, and fashioned like unto his glorious body; according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

But see, the King approaches! Hark! hear the trumpet sound! behold the dead saints arise! Shall your tombs and mine split asunder then? or shall we continue under the power of death, when the Prince of life comes? If we arise not at that time, we are certain we shall not live again until the thousand years of Christ's glorious reign on earth are finished. Or if we should be found alive, who of us shall be changed & caught up to meet the Lord in the air? and who shall be destroyed, and slain before him? and who allowed to live to repopulate the earth? for in one of these five situations shall each of us be in that awful day. Either, 1. we shall come with Christ, and be raised from the dead in his likeness, and rise to meet him in the middle air; or, 2. we shall be found alive, changed, and caught up with the raised saints into the clouds; or, 3. shall continue to sleep in the dust, until the thousand years are finished; or, 4. shall be in rebellion, and shall be destroyed from the face of the earth; and shall not even see the blessings which the Lord will bestow upon mankind; or, 5. shall be continued on the earth, to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living; and to be the happy subjects of his kingdom in the Millennium; & to increase, & fill the world with inhabitants.

But, behold, the King advances! which is he? (for all the saints shine like the sun.) Ah! that is he, with a bright crown

of glory round his head. Do you not see prints of the thorns in his forehead, from which now stream forth rays of insufferable brightness? There is the beautiful standard of the cross, carried before him; that ensign whereon he suffered shame, is now changed into the highest mark of splendour and glory. See his beautiful hands; how bright and resplendent shine the nail prints in them, by which he was fastened to his cross? Now these soft, these lovely feet of his, once torn with rude irons, pierced, and fastened by spikes to the tree, appear beautiful indeed: Behold the marks remaining! see how glory blazes through them! There, there, do not you discern the mark of the spear in his side? how bright shines that wound, whereby his heart's blood, and the water in the pericardium came forth! O cruel spear! how hast thou distinguished and marked indelibly the blessed body of Christ!

O ye Jews, what think you now of the Messiah, whom ye have so often cursed, and execrated for an impostor? How often have you laughed at the idea of the poor Christians trusting in a hanged Christ? What think ye of him now? See the cross has become the standard of glory, and the ensign of Majesty! do you see the marks in his hands, feet, and side? Ah, I do not wonder that you cry so bitterly; well may you weep and lament! methinks I hear your cries and wailings rend the air! Oh how is your language changed! "Is this the babe of Bethlehem? this the man that groaned on Calvary? Is this he whom our fathers crucified, and whom we have so long rejected, and treated with contempt and scorn? yes, he it is; but Oh, how changed from what he was, when on the cross he suffered death!" But I leave you to lament and mourn awhile (I hope you will not mourn in vain) and return to view the glorious sight, the King in his beauty, the Lord from heaven exalted in glory.—Great as the triumph was when he ascended up through the regions of the air, and entered into heaven itself, this descent to the earth is far greater; this is the end which he hath had in view from the beginning: to be honoured and glorified, where he suffered shame, pain, and death, is great honour indeed! on earth he suffered, and on earth he must reign; here he was despised, here he must be praised; here he was execrated and blasphemed, and here he must be adored and revered. Here his saints were despised, here they suffered for his dear sake; and here they must be glorified with him. Oh my Lord, let me suffer now, that I may



reign with thee my Saviour in that day! Oh how happy shall those be then, that here were reproached and persecuted for their Redeemer's sake! Remember me O Lord when thou comest into thy kingdom: Remember me, O my God, for good.

### DOMESTIC RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

FROM THE LATTER DAY LUMINARY.

*From Eld. Charles G. Sommers, dated Troy, (N. Y.) August 23, 1819.*

THE Lord continues to be very gracious to us. During this spring and summer we have had an addition of 55, and others stand prepared to follow the Lord in his appointed ways. We continue to dwell together in love. O! that our love to God may superabound!

### REVIVAL OF RELIGION.

A revival of religion has recently commenced in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, N. Y. in the congregation of the Rev. John Clark. The work appears to be still and powerful. About 40 are already rejoicing in hope, although it is but three or four weeks since the revival commenced. A number more are under deep conviction, and there is a hopeful prospect of an extensive revival.

*The next No. (which will complete six months from the commencement,) will be issued next week, that the new series may commence with the new year.*

### MARRIED.

*In Wilmot, Mr. Andrew Langley to Miss Nancy Dow.*

*In this town, Mr. Ansel Robinson of Springfield, to Miss Lydia Langley.*

**DIED.**—*In this town, widow Hannah Ladd, aged 78.*

*An Infant child of Mr. Odlin Batchelder.*

*In Wilmot, Miss Comfort Keniston, aged 16.*

*Thus the Aged, the Youth, and the Infant, alike are dropping into the dust. O! Let each remember they are born to DIE and after this the JUDGMENT!*

*Published by E. Chase, Andover, N. H. by whom printing will be executed at a short notice.*

## POETRY.

- 1 THE sun sets at night, and the stars shun the day ;  
But the glory remains when the light fades away :  
Begin ye admirers of Jesus's love,  
Who di'd to redeem us, and raise us above.
- 2 Remember the night, when his sorrows begun,  
The horrors of darkness that fell on the man ;  
Why so faint and so slow does your gratitude move  
To the Lamb that was wounded, that sinners might live.
- 3 Remember the spot where in anguish he lay,  
The sins which he bore from his people away :  
Now faith raises high, we exult in his love,  
Who di'd to redeem us but now is above.
- 4 We will go to the land where our Saviour is gone,  
And saints shall rejoice in the fruits of the Son,  
And the angels shall sing, Hallelujah, Amen,  
And glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain.

[Tune—INDIAN CHIEF.]

## STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

*Hillsborough, ss.*

NOTICE is hereby given, that a number of the inhabitants of Andover met at the Meeting-House in said town on the 14th day of September, 1819, for the purpose of forming themselves into a religious society, agreeable to an act of the Legislature of this State, passed July 1st, 1819.

1st. Chose Deac. William True Chairman.

2d. Chose Joseph Philbrick Jr. Clerk.

3d. Chose Capt. James Tucker President.

4th. Chose Capt. Caleb Marston and  
Deac. William True } *Directors.*

5th. Chose Joseph Brown Treasurer.

6th. Voted to assume and bear the name and title of the *First Baptist Union Society* in Andover, N. H.

7th. Voted to hold our Annual Meetings on the First Wednesday in September.

J. PHILBRICK, Jr. *Clerk of the Society.*

A TRUE COPY OF RECORD.—Attest, J. PHILBRICK, Jr. *Clerk.*